

Dear 5th Grade Parents and Guardians,

As part of this year's science curriculum, all 5th grade students will participate in a 5th Grade Science Fair. The fair will be held on **Thursday, April 7th**. Project boards must be in class and ready to display the morning of April 7th for our community judges. That day, the fair will be held in the multipurpose room and open to all families.

Science fairs involve students in the practices of science and engineering, requiring them to apply those skills to a topic of interest to them. Doing science is key to understanding science. Hands-on scientific investigation is the focus of the 5th Grade Science Fair. Over a 10-week period, your child will design, test analyze, and present a project that uses scientific methods to solve a problem. The project presentation will consist of a research paper, display board, and an oral presentation. Each 5th grade student will write a **research paper** and the first draft is due **Thursday, February 4th**.

Several students are working with a partner on the Science Fair project and some are working independently. While students may work with a partner, we have counseled them to very carefully consider study habits, work ethic, and availability when choosing a partner. Students are not required to have a partner and may work individually.

Please note that the **bulk of the work will be done at home**. Students will be given project deadlines and timelines at school, and teachers will check in with them periodically; however, much of the work will be self-directed. Parents and guardians are encouraged to offer emotional support and reminders but to allow students to do the projects by themselves.

Science Fair information is posted on the 5th grade wiki, and parents/guardians are encouraged to check the wiki for more detailed information. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the fair.

Below are the deadlines:

ASSIGNMENTS	Due Date
Identify a testable question	1/11/16
Research Paper (first draft) Write a hypothesis	2/5/16
Design a Procedure	2/12/16
Conduct experiment/collect data Data Tables	3/18/16

Thank you,

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